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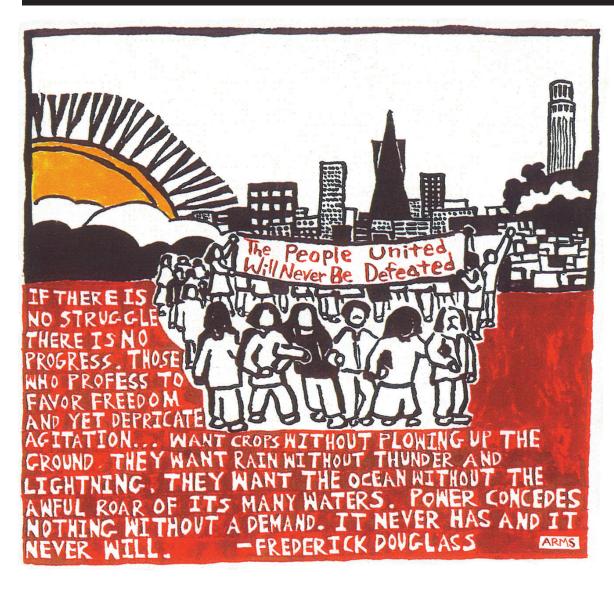
STREET SHEET IS SOLD BY HOMELESS AND LOW-INCOME VENDORS WHO KEEP 100% OF THE PROCEEDS.

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THE 2017 POETRY ISSUE



En nombre de quienes lava ropa ajena (y expulsan de la blancura la mugre ajena)

En nombre de quienes cuidan hijos ajenos (y venden su fuerza de trabajo en forma de amor maternal y humiliaciones)

En nombre de quienes habitan in vivienda ajena (y aun los mastican con sentimiento de ladron)

En nombre de quienes viven en un pais ajeno (las casas y las fabricas y los comercios y las calles y las ciudades y los pueblos y los rios y los lagos y los volcanes y los montes son siempre de otros y por eso esta alli la policia y la guardia cuidandolos contra nosotros)

En nombre de quienes lo unico que tienen es hambre explotacion enfermedades sed de justicia y de agua persecuciones condenas soledad abandono opresion muerte

Yo acuso a la propiedad privada de privarnos de todo.

In the name of those washing others' clothes (and cleaning others' filth from the whiteness)

In the name of those caring for others' children (and selling their labor power in the form of maternal love and humiliations)

In the name of those living in another's house (which isn't even a kind belly but a tomb or a jail)

In the name of those eating others' crumbs (and chewing them still with the feeling of a thief

In the name of those living on others' land (the houses and factories and shops streets cities and towns rivers lakes volcanoes and mountains always belong to others and that's why the cops and the guards are there guarding them against us)

In the name of those who have nothing but hunger exploitation disease a thirst for justice and water persecutions and condemnations loneliness abandonment oppression and death I accuse private property of depriving us of everything.

January marks the annual poetry edition of the Street Sheet. In the past year that has been overwhelmed with deep grief. loss, and hurt, we turn to poetry and art to heal. Reflect. Engage. Resist. We find ways to say goodbye, to say this is how I will remember you. We envision and reenvision a different world and new possibilities through words, stories, and narratives that dare to transcend our present realities. This collection of courageous poems from poets across the Bay Area demands us to imagine and reimagine our world, pay attention, and act in the face of injustice.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE GHOST SHIP

Lindsay, Tennessee and Jose, three hapless souls who didn't escape the Fire.

A conflagration, ignited by fear, suspicion and hatred suffocated Lindsay, Tennessee and Jose and bought about their demise

...mainly because Lindsay, Tennessee and Jose ...were among the despised.

And the Ghost Ship still lingers after smoldering timbers have dimmed.

The Privileged sparked attitudes sets feelings ablaze, burning animosities that flicker with hatred and scorn. There will be no concerts for 79 year old Jose Campos found dead in a driveway of the housed...

There will be no Crowdfunding for 27 year old Lindsay McCollum and Eddie Tennessee Tate...the two tasting and feeling the Fire from the muzzle of a deadly weapon.

Plumes of indifference...ridicule...seeps up from WHERE ARE THE FUNDRAISERS...WHERE ARE THE CONCERTS...WHERE IS THE NATIONAL OUTPOURING OF SADNESS and SYMPATHY? Where is the pageantry in their Honor of....

these three beautiful HOUSELESS Souls whose lives were Lost?

WHERE IS THE RED CROSS!?!

Huddle together in makeshift warehouses...of tiny homes/box shelters/tents...are consumed in a holocaust of indifference

...ridiculed/ neglected. No memorial will be dedicated nor erected...for Lindsay, Tennessee and Jose.

These three houseless denizens will only be just a blip on the media radar, overshadowed by the latest INFERNO / demonization of the houseless

Weren't Lindsay, Tennessee and Jose struggling artists?... the harsh, dangerous streets being their canvas Terrible injuries and painful experiences a permanent part of the canvas and yet, containing all the possibilities life had in store for them. Yes they're... artists. life as Art and Art as Life.

And The Ghost Ship still lingers after smoldering timbers have dimmed.

-BILAL ALI

AN EXCERPT FROM SKID ROW IS STILL SKID ROW (AND CLOSER THAN YOU THINK)

Laying against the wall next to the door of a small jewelry store, a man was perfectly still across the sidewalk. A white sheet was pulled up to his waist, his hands folded over it. His head was thrown back, his mouth slightly open like readying for a kiss. His eyes were closed tight, expectant, afraid, waiting for something terrible. Blood was spattered on the wall above his head like a feathery crown. Some blood had trickled from his nose; his lips were a bit darkened.

Is he OK?

No, Melly. He's not OK.

Many homeless spent the night under the marquee of the old Grand movie theater or in that shallow doorway next to the jewelry store. It gave hardly any shelter but folks sought it out anyway. It was coveted as the sun set and the sky grew overcast and that evening wind whipped through the corridor. They laid on cardboard rolled up in blankets or set up shopping carts around salvaged bedding and hunkered down for the night, sleeping while the hipster fucks and tech drones walked over them and by them on their way through the string of bars in the neighborhood. They slept through the shrieking of tires and the whir and hiss of the buses. They slept through the chatter and mindless talk and shouts and calls from across the street, and folks talking on their phones and laughing until it was late and folks were done drinking, the store lights blinking and the last bus roaring down Mission then it was quiet, but cold. They slept through the cold, tugging at their blankets, turning on their sides.

This man was just another homeless in a terrible way. He was not well and in need of help.

What do we do?

Fuck, I don't know.

Is he just asleep? He's hurt.

He's probably drunk. He's covered like he's sleeping.

Someone will find him, right.

I looked around. Mission Street was empty. No cars. One man at the corner waiting for the light to change, thumbs hooked on the straps of his backpack. No perceivable help anywhere. I pulled my phone out of my bag and dialed 9-1-1.

Hello, I want to report a man in need of help. He's laying on the sidewalk and he's bloodied...I can't tell, he's really still... his face is all bloody...it doesn't appear that he's breathing but I haven't really checked...his mouth is bloodied...

I approached the man and tapped his covered heal with my toe.

He's not responding, he's needs assistance...No, I don't know him...OK...Please, thank you. They're sending a patrol car to check him out.

So do we wait?

I thought about it. I was in schedule mode, my day planned out to the minute, get up early to go to the gym, type up a sub plan, email it, check in with my principal then be at the hall of justice by 9:00. This man needed our help but I didn't know what else I could do, and I needed to stick to my plan, I didn't think any of the folks I had to answer to – the judge, my principal – would forgive my absence or tardiness because I stopped to tend to an injured, homeless man and made sure he was taken care of. I was bound to my duties. Fuck.

They said police are coming. They'll know what to do. They can figure it out.

But someone will come.

Yes, someone's coming. And if not, I imagine when the folks from the jewelry store open, they'll call the police, too.

We backed away and continued walking down the street holding hands.

- NORMAN ANTONIO ZELAYA

NEW YORK CITY

Solitary white rose
Lying on shiny gray stone
Honorably etched names
Of the dead
Living in hearts
Wounded raw still
Healing waters deep earth

Floating sweet incense world's azure sky
Flaming self-immolating red candle
Burn to ashes
Spinning Tibetan prayer wheel
May all beings be happy
Gathering around
Golden circle human beings

-MORGAN ZO CALLAHAN

I GOT NO INSPIRATION

Every time that i get in line, To not be behind you every time, I don't care just to share, All of my love with you ooooo ooooo. You suppose to be with me, Every day of the week, To see you when your not busy, Just call on me and i would be easy, And it a be so cool. To get you, Even when we're all alone. With out you, There be no inspiration, To come and see me, On your days off, And i'll be there any where That you got the inspiration To love me too.

-EASY COOL, JUST FOR YOU

FIRE WILL NEVER DESTROY

FIRE WILL NEVER DESTROY
THAT WHICH BURNS BRIGHT INSIDE,
THAT SPARK OF EVERLASTING LIFE...
OVERCOMING FEAR, GUILT, SHAME, DOUBT
CLAIMING A DEEPER STRENGTH,
MY SACRED FIRE WILL GUIDE & PROTECT ME...
BURNING BRIGHT,
THROUGH THE NIGHT,
FULFILLING MY DREAMS
I RISE.

-BONNIE SELVA

IMMIGRANT POEM

They cross the border looking
For a piece of the Promised Land
Entering a land that once belonged
To their ancestors
These conquered souls of Mexico
Who toil in fields of abundance
Harvest fruit and vegetables
With stooped backs
And blistered hands
At pay no white man would consider
In a land built by immigrants
It now calls its enemies

-A.D. WINANS



Man at Work by Ronnie Goodman

ACROSS FROM THE POPULAR PARK WITH PALMS

your elders shall dream dreams
Acts 2:17

On the sidewalk near the intersection across from the popular park with palms

an aged man pushing a shopping cart piled high with bottles and with cans and four large

garbage bags stuffed full hanging off the sides.

He plods, his head of white hair
hung over his

shrunken self as if his neck were broken back humped, his arms outstretched; he leans into

the discarded weight. Reaching the curb he does not cross on Dolores to the park

with palms but stops, bows his head to the hard handle: a surrendering in prayer?

A flock of lorikeets swoop, screech, and land.
"Old leaf scars form a pattern"—
blessings crowned.

-VIRGINIA BARRETT

COLD IN THE CITY

Cold,

in the city

almost every night

it is cold,

not cold enough to freeze water

but cold enough

to kill

the unprotected person

the person without a home

a shelter.

And it's wet too.

If no rain falls

fog often rolls in.

In the city

cold

conservative politicians say

they care

say

they want to "protect the homeless."

So what's their first move?

Remove all the tents

confiscate all the shelters

make taking any cover

sitting on a piece of cardboard

putting down a backpack

a crime.

It's for their own safety,

the hypocritical politicians parrot over and over

while the police hand out tickets

people without money can't pay

threaten the poor and the homeless with jail.

It is

cold

in the city

sleeping on the hard pavement

in a tent

or in a bus or van that barely runs.

But friendships are made.

Pets and children nurtured.

The displaced

the disabled

the almost completely powerless

try

to take care of each other

make their own communities

their own families of friends

to give them the love and support

we all

deserve.

-KRISTINA BROWN

WET PLAYGROUND

NO ADULTS ALLOWED UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY CHILDREN.
PARK CODE SEC. 3.02

THE DERELICT WITH HIS CAN OF BEER BAGGED
ROAMS THE QUIET PLAYGROUND ON A DARK SKY DAY
CHILDREN, THE PERMITTED CLAN
AVOID THE RAIN WET SLIDE, THE SAND TURNED MUD

THE DERELICT, HIS WEATHER BAGGED
HE HEARS NO SHRIEKS FROM SUNNY KIDS
ONLY THE TEASING BREEZE
ONLY THE FAINT COMPLAINT
OF THE LEAFLESS TREES

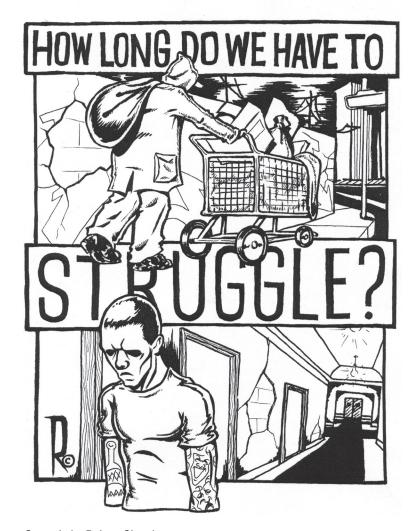
THE DERELICT, HIS DREAMS IN A BAG
TAUNTED BY SWINGS FROM ABOVE
THE COLD LINK CHAINS, THE BLACK STRAP SEATS
THAT NEVER LET YOU TRULY FLY

-CESAR LOVE

16TH AND VALENCIA

I saw Jack Micheline on the corner of 16th & Valencia reciting "Skinny Dynamite" and he was angry and the next day he was dead on the last BART train to Concord and maybe that's why he was angry I met Harold Norse shuffling around in a beaten world his pockets stuffed with poems only hipsters read It's a cesspool out here he sighed before retreating to his room in the Albion Hotel where angels honevcomb the walls with dreams and the rent is paid with angry poems I heard Oscar Zeta Acosta's brown buffalo footsteps pounding the Valencia Corridor and he was shouting poetry at the sick junkies nodding with their wasted whores in the lobby of the Hotel Royan "The Mission's finest" and even the furniture was angry I joined the waiters at the bus stop the waitresses the norteños trios the flowers sellers the blind guitarist wailing boleros at a purple sky the shirtless vagrant vagabond ranting at a parking meter the spray paint visionary setting fire to the word and I knew this was the last call We were tired of living from the scraps of others We were tired of dying for our own chunk of nothing And I saw this barrio as a freight train a crazy Mexican bus careening out of control a mutiny aboard a battleship and every porthole filled with anger And we were going to stay angry And we were not leaving Not ever leaving El corazón del corazón de La Misión El Camino Real ends here

-ALEJANDRO MURGUÍA



Struggle by Robert Chambers

POETRY IS AN ACT OF PEACE.

— PABLO NERUDA

MOTORHOME WITH NO DESTINATION

Two lovers on a crumbling orange moon gazed at Heaven for hours while the sky painted the stars the color of Fog. Two dogs barked their grievances to the world of closed eyes and mouths, knowing glances on the subway that seem more than curious. The gas tank is almost empty, the cops are going to run people off just when one takes a breath and the pavement is gentle. Just when the parking space is quiet, a cop or metermaid, tight-lipped and grim, starts knocking at the door, the dogs start barking, and the kids howl their regret at being found out and it's time to go. But we are just people trying to get by. This city, the clenched jaws of a jackel with glittering eyes of fool's gold, turn its back on the citizens who need help the most.

In church, I learned that money has replaced $\operatorname{\mathsf{God}}$, and there are no refunds.

They welcome the racist zombies who come here with their blanket of averageness and their mind-numble dribble of changing of the world. Every human is changing the world, no matter how minute or small, by moving forward throughout the universe. Ants die, babies are born, people blink.

Someone's knocking at the door. The two dogs start barking. And the swollen faces on the subway, big like sunflowers in the fall, their expressions telling not a story because their devotion is for a device, not a person.

Someone's knocking at the door. It's a cop. Now we might get shot!

Don't even blink. Don't even breathe. Someone's wheezing. Someone's screaming. People are dying. My city is gone. It's not there anymore.

-RAINA HUNTER For Buffy Gomez

NOW

Ladore our finite time and its wondrous levity that makes each second of laughter, body, breath so precious I am content with death for it is a dull necessity not worth pondering you are here! and we are kindred, woven like all the currentschaotic and stunning please, remember this with me, for me, when I spin away we are transient and that is fine as long as I drift with you in my picture there will be no ghost

A RETURN TO FORM

I struggle to grasp you, little wisp I studied every heaven to relate to you my fingertips caress your vermilion still it slips back into the air I've tried diets of nectar and sugarcane copays for prescriptions of Dragon's blood all to no avail I long to bathe in that pollen to peel the stem raw to be awakened to return to form

YOUNG HILL, WA

I find you where the trees break meadow reflecting meadow

it's an antique golden and a culled sensation

carried by gossamers my body was the enervate equal in this embrace

I nearly forgot how it felt, to have the moon and stars pressed hot on my back!

until you held me once more.

POEMS FROM "HADAL" BY MATT HEMMERICH

"Hadal" is a collection of twenty new poems from Matt Hemmerich. 50% of the proceeds from each book will go directly to Coalition on Homelessness, which publishes the Street Sheet. If you would like to purchase a copy of "Hadal," please visit http://matthemmerich.bigcartel.com/product/hadal

NO PLACE TO GO

It's rain'n and cold, got no place to go. I walk the streets all nite or just stand around or sit in a park. I long for daylight, so that I may rest my sleepy eyes. I dare not sleep at nite-too dangerous for a female. I feel sick, I have to use the toilet. It's 2:am and no open bathrooms. I find an alley—haaa—relief as my bowels shoot out it's liquid of sickness-some got on my pants. I still feel sick, It's rain'n and cold-got no place to go.

- SHERRY MEANS

AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

I was okay for a minute, a half step ahead of the jackal, a heart-beat behind the wound.

Then my pillow's luck ran out.
I had a warrant: my soul was overdue.
The insomnia of my mattress went postal.

My inside wandered outside where a pigeon on the roof of a cadillac was scolding a runaway dime.

Penniless in duplicate, I slept like a pile of ashes on the icy pavement of my inalienable rights. I had nothing but time.

-MICHAEL KOCH

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE THE WORLD IS THE RECLAIMING OF THE AWARENESS OF THE WORLD. THAT'S WHAT POETRY DOES. - ALLEN GINSBERG

SONG OF THE COTTONWOOD SEED

with windless winter morning breaking blazing rays and icy airs a hilly hiking undertaking counting worries, fretting cares

> when by my eyes it dancing, quaking white and fuzzy thousand hairs

says I "hello" and "lovely floating" speaking not, it bobbed a bit so light in flight it nothing toting needing not to rest or sit it naught but HAPPINESS emoting smiled I "goodbye" to it

-CLYDE ALWAYS

TWAS THE NITE B4 TUESDAY

Twas the nite b4 Xmas all over The Loin, ain't got me no paper, not even a coin
The hookers lined up along Ellis w/care
4 any desperado w/the urge who wud dare
Wen wot to my bloodshot eyes shud appear,
but an Anchor Steam Tech Inspired IPA beer?
names kinda queer, but thank U my dear!
Mmm! I sip, 2 sips, I can drink my way thru this.
No sooner cud I utter,
wen I saw Old Gus pushin off in the gutter.

wen I saw Old Gus pushin off in the gutter.
Just another nite of the daily freak show.
Got Dang wot next? I dont need to know.
Then out in the back there arose such a clatter
I called 9II b4 the perpetrators cud scatter
& like dry leaves b4 the wild hurricane blow,
no sooner'd I hang up wen the po po dun show
They scoped it out to find Junky Joe,
climbin into the dumpster coz he has nowhere to go.
Ah Hyde St. theres no place like home!
Merry Freakin Crimmus to all
even The Five-oh.

A view from 430 -U HERD



SILICON CITY

They evicted Mia from her storefront on Valencia Then they burned down the apartments on 22nd Street The good die young and isn't it a pity But the beat goes on in Silicon City

You're a stranger now in your home town
With strange faces on once familiar streets
And strange shadows at four o'clock
And cops strangers on a strange beat
The days and nights are mostly gritty
But hey, it's ok, you're hanging in Silicon City

So I've been told that everything that rises must fall
And that the wicked shall be denied
But now a days you don't know who to trust
And watch out you don't get run over by a google bus
It be's that way all down and dirty
In the heartless heart of Silicon City

Now everybody knows the center cannot hold But prophecy is cheat and politicians are slippery So baby get your high-heeled sneakers and your black beret on Because tonight we face the music in Silicon City

-ALEJANDRO MURGUIA

RESTORATION OF HUMANITY

We work towards the common good of all living kind Yet people are suffering to find shelter, oppressed by the systems design

We work to heal past pains of displacement, hurts, and abuse,

Yet a discourse of utilization of services remains its proof We work for the restoration of humanity and advocate social justice.

A new framework is needed to address these injustices Building environments that foster hope,

Recognizing the resiliency that this population holds Yet our work seemingly bound by systematic changes and procedural technicalities

Human rights to adequate housing should not end in fatality Each human being needs sufficient shelter at any given time Human rights should not be violated due to systematic flaws and injustices

Rebuilding systems and policies that promote the value of each human being globally

Social change begins with simple acts of kindness and love Let's work together to replenish the heart of true humanity

-GIANNI JONES

HOME

(to the National Union of the Homeless)

Winter has come In doorways, in alleys, at the top of churchsteps, under cardboard, under rag-blankets or, if lucky, in plastic sacks, after another day of humiliation, sleeping, freezing, isolated, divided, penniless jobless, wheezing, dirty skin wrapped around cold bones, that's us, that's us in the USA, hard concrete, cold pillow, where fire? where drink? damned stiffs in a drawer soon if, and who cares? shudders so familiar to us, shivers so intimate, our hands finally closed in clench after another day panhandling, tongues dogs ate more today, are curled at the feet of beds, can belch, fart, have hospitals they can be taken to, they'll come out of houses and sniff us dead one day pieces of shit lying scattered here in an American city renowned for its food and culture.

The concrete is our sweat hardened, the bridge our vampirized blood the downtown, Tenderloin and Broadway lights – our corpuscles transformed into ads;

our pulse-beat the sound tengtengendeng of coins piling up on counters, in phonebooths. Bart machines tengtengendeng in parking meters, pinball contraptions, public lavatories, toll booths; our skin converted into dollar bills, plastic cards, banknotes, lampshades for executive offices, newspapers, toiletpaper; our heart - the bloody organ the State gobbles like a geek in a sideshow that's become the national circus of the damned. O murderous system of munitions and inhuman rights

that has plundered our pockets and our dignity,
O enterprise of crime that calls us criminals,
terrorism that cries we are fearful,
greed that evicts us from the places we ourselves
have built,

miserable war-mongery that sentences us to misery and public exposure as public nuisances to keep a filthy republic clean –

this time we shall not b disappeared in innercity ghetto barrio or morgue, this time our numbers are growing into battalions of united cries.

We want the empty offices collecting dust!
We want the movie houses from midnite till dawn!
We want the churches open 24 gods a day!
We built them. They're ours. We want them!
No more doorways, garbage-pail alleys
no more automobile graveyards,
underground sewer slums
We want public housing!
No more rat-pit tubing, burnt out rubble-caves,
no more rain-soaked dirt in the mouth,
empty dumpster nightmares of avalanches of trash
and broken bricks,

screams of women hallucinating at the Muni entrance gates,

no more kids with death-rattling teeth under discarded tarp.

We want public housing!
we the veterans of your insane wars
workers battered into jobless oblivion,
the factory young: fingers crushed into handout
on Chumpchange St.,
the factory old: spat-out phlegm from the sick

corporate chest of Profits.
Instead of raped respect, jobs
with enough to live on!
Instead of exile and eviction in this,
our home, our land,
Homeland once and for all
for one and all
and not just this one-legged cry
on a crutch on a rainy sidewalk.

- JACK HIRSCHMAN

Jack is a member of the San Francisco Revolutionary Poets Brigade, has published more than 100 books and chapbooks, as well as paintings and other visual work, and traveled throughout the world to read and share his poetry with the people.



Untitled by Crystal Chen.

WRITING AS WRITING. WRITING AS RIOTING. WRITING AS RIGHTING. - TEJU COLE

HOMELESS RANT

"The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Luke 9:58, King James Bible.

Homeless shuddering through the winter Homelessness a jagged splinter Under the City's fingernail Homeless impaled beyond the Pale Homeless address: No fixed abode Homeless always On the Road Homeless folk don't got no vote No fleece-lined camel-hair overcoat No gloves with no holes in the fingers For Homeless hopers, Hope malingers Homelessness gets old real fast Homeless players haven't passed GO, never collected Two Hundred, or bought Park Avenue Homeless don't play much Monopoly SO when they do, they play it sloppily Board game planners, homeless ain't Still, there ought to be a Saint Of Homelessness: By Jeez, there is! Homelessness was Jesus' biz.

-JOHN RIDLAND

ODE TO DPW

You couldn't wait
To clear the tents
And what you
Deemed junk off that
Stretch of sidewalk
Known as 17th st.

The pictures of
Our fallen were
Taken down and,
If not for those among
Us who refuse to take
Shit and to have folks
Take our shit,

Our altar with The flowers And rosaries Would have been Taken too

Of course our
Bones are buried
Deep in the ground
And our skin stripped
Of murals that live
In memory

But DPW guy, You look a lot <u>Like me</u>

In fact, you Look like a Guy who is One paycheck Away from a tent

Or one twitch or Smirk away from A bullet DPW=dark person working

Trying to keep Your shit while

Taking our shit away

-TONY ROBLES

BLACK SHEEP QUEEN

Panic attacks at 10

Touched at 12 Homeless at 15 Pregnant at 15 Mother by 19 Dollar n a dream Hella cream That fast money Snow bunny Hit the block Grabbin rocks Hittin licks Make u sick I'm a trip Can't fuck wit this click One man army Live in tyrany Rebel teen Black sheep queen What u know bout that life That street life That block life That park bus hard cement U think we're cool U wna be down **Downtown life** Where cats lose their life Let's trade Ur fat house For my bad mouth For my down For my crown Can't touch this I know u want this U can't have my game Never been the same Raised with killers pimps n drug dealers I became a healer I talk to the moon I talk to the sky N u wonder why When u got it all Wonder how

-JUJUBA

U could possibly fall

TALISMAN

one day at venice beach seas waving to us basketball guys & I quick chinese teenager with game she wraps her legs with springy tawny cloth like she's going to be in a ballet firmly binds from her calves to sun glistening lower thighs pads her knees we call her talisman & everyone wants her

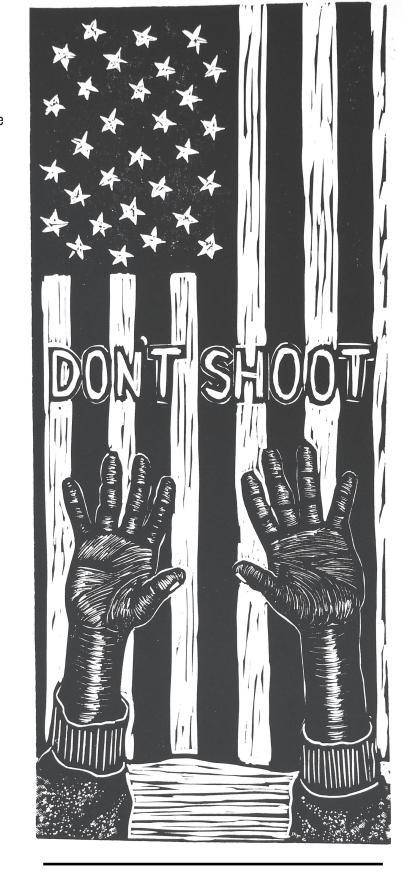
she passes and dribbles behind her back all together natural motion round enjoying her flow dancing twirling red bandanna gypsy crazy awake creating hoops artistry something unspeakable present like a breath between games a dreadful flight a vision captures my heated brain

panting stretching my hips making knee circles suddenly in an unwanted reverie i'm bouncing my shiny brown head up the open air gray court people hanging out hooting watching human flowers colorful melting pot passing by cross court i sling my head without face to talisman breaking free poised to make a lay up in graceful stride

my spherical crown soars just outside talisman's reach continues upwards rocketing to the unfathomable glistening sea smelling us peaceful alive uplifted deep losing my head as infrequently as it might happen memorably occurred on a salty aired ocean-side basketball court let's play ball along a golden beach far beyond the vast white foaming aqua seas

-MORGAN ZO CALLAHAN





THE ROLE OF THE POET IS TO MAKE REVOLUTION IRRESISTIBLE. - JUNE JORDAN

JOURNALISM 101 WORKSHOP

Join us for a free journalism workshop! You'll learn the fundamentals of journalism, including how to pitch a story, conduct an interview, and write and edit articles. More than ever, we need journalists and writers to document the housing crisis and human rights violations that unhoused San Franciscans face. Lunch will be provided.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017 11AM-1PM 468 Turk St. San Francisco, CA 94102

FOR MORE INFORMATION Call (415) 346-3740 or E-mail streetsheet@cohsf.org

SUBMIT WRITING

STREETSHEET@ COHSF.ORG

468 TURK ST

WRITER'S CORNER

Why do so many of us quickly lose touch with the New Year's resolutions that we make at the beginning of the year? New Year's resolutions can feel like a reductive measurement of growth, turning our deepest aspirations for self into concrete bullet points. This year, try moving away from resolutions and towards rebirths. The idea of rebirthing aspects of oneself or the world might allow for more wholistic, explorative, and mysterious journeys this coming year.

WRITE A POEM IN WHICH EACH LINE BEGINS WITH "RATHER THAN RESOLVE TO. , I WILL REBIRTH **-**(EXAMPLE: "RATHER THAN RESOLVE TO LOSE WEIGHT, I WILL REBIRTH LOVE FOR EVERY PART OF MY BODY").

This writing prompt is brought to you by GHOSTLINES. Ghostlines is a Bay Area collective of poets, artists, and educators comprised of Ariana Weckstein, Gabriel Cortez, Isabella Borgeson, Jade Cho, and Natasha Huey. We are committed to using art to cultivate empathy. To disrupt violent systems and thought. To nurture and challenge ourselves and our communities to rise. www.ghostlinescollective.tumblr.com

SNIPPET

Ain't got no dream High school drop out Sleeping couch to couch Bus to bus Life got real tough The streets took me in Taught me to win History of abuse Kept that shit mute Homeless has no face Homeless has no race If u look at me u wouldn't have knew All the struggle I went through Grabbin on my tummy They said I'm just a youngin But I already killed one'my kin Can't do it again And so I'm on the street Ain't got Nothing to eat For me n my growin belly Livin from telly to telly Going back to my abuser What a fuckin loser My one lame option Taught me caution And so u think u know Like I should reap what I sow But I was just a kid I don't even want to live No courage to take my life But it's too much strife And so I WOMANed up Hit the block Got my money up N you judge us My community-but You wouldn't stand a day in our shoes You would sit up here n lose You ain't got that skin That won't let no one in You say we want the streets Like we don't want a warm bed to sleep What kinda lies is that So u could feel good living fat While poverty surrounds you Acting like we got the flu U act like we don't exist Desensitized to the realness We're homeless cuz we're poor Not cuz we don't want that home door that home floor So we get that government aid That stigma y'all mad at cuz y'all paid Y'all paid for the prisons Locking up our children Locking up our daddy's Who rode round in caddys U know who supports them Our sisters n single women Taking from OUR households To profit YOUR stock holds So that's where their daddy is Living wit the fuckin pigs Now I'm off the streets Got my food I eat Got my babies wit me But I still got pain My tears fall like rain My past haunts my dreams All I got is deep spirituality Keeping me sane So I don't fall again My life is scarred It all went too far Still catching up Cuz I was out of luck Fast money was my hobby Got me lost from my body It got divided from my soul For Christmas Santa shoulda sent coal For all the dirt I did For years I hid Embarrassed of the life I lived And I never said all this before Let u peak into my soul And I walk around in vain Cuz I'm always in pain But u would never know By the smile I always show The queen of laughter Ain't happily ever after My life would make u fear For your kids to not get near What I went through When no one knew So open your mind Never know who needs you to be kind Cuz I needed you But you never knew.

-JUJUBA



COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition's work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: They bring their agenda to us. We then turn that agenda into powerful campaigns that are fleshed out at our work group meetings, where homeless people come together with their other community allies to win housing and human rights for all homeless and poor people.

WORKGROUP MEETINGS

AT 468 TURK STREET

HOUSING JUSTICE WORK GROUP

Every Tuesday at noon

The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone!

HUMAN RIGHTS WORK GROUP Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join!

To learn more about COH workgroup meetings, contact us at : 415-346-3740, or go at : www.cohsf.org

STREET SHEET STAFF

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

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POET SPOTLIGHTS: NATASHA & GABRIEL

Co-founded in 2013 by poets Natasha Huey and Gabriel Cortez, Write Home facilitates writing workshops and open mics for homeless youth in shelters and service organizations in Berkeley. Through spoken word poetry, youth are able to foster community, express themselves creatively, and develop positive human connections.

TELL ME A BIT MORE ABOUT WRITE HOME. WHAT IS A TYPICAL NIGHT LIKE HOLDING A WRITING WORKSHOP?

Natasha: Well, Write Home is a writing workshop that Gabe and I started and it was really to create space for homeless youth to tell their stories. Our writing workshops basically look like us walking into the space. We find a spare table or join some folks at the table and start a writing workshop for anyone who is interested. We invite everyone to join us, even if they've never written a poem before, even if they're not interested in poetry or don't want to write anything down. We start off with a check-in, talk about how they're doing, take it to a brainstorm where we generate ideas together and talk about a theme, and then we have a writing prompt where we can start with a line that we give folks. Then we just free write and share. It does some powerful things. It gives people an opportunity to share things about themselves and surprise themselves, by what they're capable of. The stories they have inside of them are told in creative and funny and sometimes heartbreaking

HOW DOES POETRY AND ACTIVISM INTERSECT IN YOUR WORK? HOW DO YOU THINK POETRY AND ART CAN BRING ABOUT SOCIAL CHANGE?

Gabriel: A lot of our work is grounded in creating safe spaces for low-income and homeless youth to tell their stories and build community. And a big part of what we do with poetry is the making of the space and creating opportunities for folks to sit across the table from each other, get to know each other, and to say things that they can't say in other spaces

and that's a part of activism because—how I see the connection—one, if we're talking about organizing communities, one of the main things we have to do is combat isolation, build community, and know each other in an authentic way. Once a community knows each other it creates greater opportunities for that community to get activated, to get mobilized and to be better grounded and understand what everyone can contribute.

Natasha: There's a belief that cultural change precedes policy change. Gay marriage being upheld by the supreme court—that could not have been done without the work by activists and artists, trans folks, queer folks of color. That was cultural change that put on the pressure for policy and laws to change. It wasn't the other way around. Art is integral in changing perceptions and expanding possibilities of our worlds and the people around us. In the idea that no one is disposable, art can highlight the humanity of people and bring people together to witness each other's humanity. When you're talking about social change and liberation of all people, you need to humanize everyone and the only true mechanism we have for that is our storytelling and commu-

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF SPOKEN WORD AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM MORE TRADITIONAL. WRITTEN POETRY?

Gabriel: I'd argue that spoken word poetry is one of the oldest artistic traditions. Probably predates the written word. When we're talking about spoken word, we're talking about the first storytellers. Folks gathered around, whether it was the table or a fire, and listened. With spoken word poetry, there's performance. We've got plenty of folks that sit down that don't write anything on the page, but when it comes time to share, they go off. When we're making a space, we're saying that that is just as valid and worthy and legit as writing. Spoken word poetry has room for an exchange between the listener and the

speaker. It makes room for those urgent stories to speak and breathe. It's live.

Natasha: Spoken word is accessible. It's fun. And it's alive. Those things really help bring out this form of literacy to folks who don't own that title of literate or poet or don't feel like they own the title of artist. It puts value to what they're doing and saying, and that's exciting. There's no barriers to spoken word except being able to speak and understand, which can be seen as hefty barriers, but ultimately, it's for the people and celebrated by the people.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE TO GIVE TO PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GET STARTED WRITING?

Natasha: I would say try. Try writing, see what happens. Put ten minutes on the clock and start with the simple phrase "I remember" and see where your pen goes. Just see what happens in 10 minutes. And at the end of it, look back and see if there's anything that interests you or where you want to dive deeper, and there's the place to start your next place the next day. Read, listen, and watch. There are places where you can go to open mics and trying out some writing on your own. When you're ready, share it and get some feedback and guidance from the community.

Gabriel: I encourage folks to grab a 50 cent notebook, something you can hold onto to see your own growth as a writer. Remember that anything can be a poem. A diary—write journals. A list of questions for someone you have never met. A horoscope for yourself. Put pen to page and see where you end up. You start writing about grandma and end up writing a piece about what you ate that morning, that's fine. Go with it!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.WRITEHOME.ORG, WWW.GABRIELMCORTEZ.COM WWW.NATASHAHUEY.COM.

BAY AREA OPEN MICS

LUNADA LITERARY LOUNGE AND OPEN MIC // TIME & LOCATION VARY

LUNADA is the Bay Area's only full moon bilingual literary ritual & performance gathering. Located in the heart of the Mission District at Galería de la Raza, each Lunada features community poets, local legends, visiting mystics, and other mero meros of the stage. Guest curated by some of the Bay Area's most dynamic word slingers and artists, LUNADAS are community gatherings where stories, food, songs, and spirit are shared.

www.qaleriadelaraza.org

THE ROOT SLAM// 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAYS AT 7:30 PM // MLK CAFE, 3860 M.L.K. JR WAY OAKLAND

The Root Slam's mission is to create an inclusive and socially just space to promote the artistic growth of the poetry community. We want to be a place where poetry, creativity, and innovation thrive and artists support and challenge one another to grow. We encourage participants to bring new work and develop it to the point of excellence. We are guided by values centering the voices of Black, indigenous, and people of color artists; queer, trans, gender non-conforming, femme, and women poets; working class/low-income, disabled, im/migrant and undocumented folks. Free, 18+ ID

YOUTH SPEAKS // JANUARY 27, 2017 @ 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM // 826 VALENCIA, 826 VALENCIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO

These Under-21 Open Mics are designed as bi-weekly performance "open-houses" for emerging young writers and performers to flex their skills on the mic. Additionally, they establish safe spaces for poets to share work-in-progress and further cultivate their voice. Held in community locations throughout the East Bay and San Francisco, these events are hosted, produced, and promoted by members of Spokes, our Youth Advisory Board, and are always free. www.youthspeaks.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR JANUARY 2017

This is a calendar of free events concerning poverty, homelessness, and social justice in San Francisco and the wider Bay Area. If you would like your event included in the next issue, please send information to: StreetSheet@cohsf.org.

111 WEDNESDAY

SOLIDARITY: THE TENDERLOIN'S INAUGURATION PLANNING MEETING

10:30am - 12pm Kelley Cullen Auditorium 220 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco

Strategize, Organize, and Fight Back for the future of the Tenderloin! Come plan a day of action and solidarity for the week of the Presidential Inauguration!

13 FRIDAY

COMMUNITY READ-Ing group

7:30pm - 9pm Green Apple Books 1231 9th Ave San Francisco

We will be examining books centered around social justice and activism. It will serve as a safe space for the public to read, write, speak, learn, exchange art, offer each other support, and prepare for action. Our book for January is WE GON' BE ALRIGHT by Jeff Chang, who will join our meeting.

17 TUESDAY

RECLAIM MLK DAY: HOMELESS PEOPLE'S POPULAR ASSEMBLY

12:00-2:30pm Civic Center Plaza San Francisco

On this day we will be honoring the 48th anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign. The PPC was the last campaign that MLK jr. organized before his untimely assassination.

Contact Kelley at kcutler@cohsf.org for more info.

21 SATURDAY

WOMEN'S MARCH 4pm - 9pm Civic Center Plaza

Civic Center Plaza San Francisco

Stand with us in solidarity for the American values we represent: we will continue to stand together for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families—our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country. Rally at Civic Center with speakers and arts, followed by a festive, reverent candlelight march down Market St. to Justin Herman Plaza.

womensmarchbayarea.org

28 SATURDAY

SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM: HEALING THROUGH RESISTANCE 9am - 4pm

1781 Rose St. Berkeley, CA

This FREE conference hosts numerous workshops presented by many of the Bay Area's most powerful educators, activists, and organizers - offering tools, ideas, dialogues, and actions that will help us in the struggle and journey of creating a more socially just community, locally and beyond! Lunch is provided.

OUR 2016 DONORS

Thanks to individual donors, the Street Sheet and the Coalition on Homelessness has managed to build a growing movement to lift up the voices and actions of those surviving on street corners or in shelters. Bringing together people experiencing homelessness, frontline service providers, and advocates, we have made enormous strides towards ending poverty and homelessness in the city.

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